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**From:** Schmittiel, Paula  
**Sent:** Mon 2/10/2014 4:48:55 PM  
**Subject:** FW: ARSG InnoCentive Challenge

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**Subject:** FW: ARSG InnoCentive Challenge

**From:** Peter Butler [mailto:[butlerpeter2@gmail.com](mailto:butlerpeter2@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 07, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** Peter Butler  
**Subject:** ARSG InnoCentive Challenge

Dear Stakeholders – Our “removal of metals from mine water” challenge has just been posted on

the InnoCentive website. <http://www.innocentive.com/>

InnoCentive posts challenges for a fee. They have about 300,000 registered solvers around the world who may offer solutions to the challenges in hopes of receiving an award.

Our challenge:

<https://www.innocentive.com/ar/challenge/9933520>. The Challenge Deadline will be 03/08/2014.

Please pass this email on to anyone who you think might be interested. They can go to the InnoCentive website and sign up as a solver (it's free). If someone is interested in the challenge, **they should direct all questions to InnoCentive, not us** (that's one of the things we pay them for).

This particular challenge is like a brainstorming. It will be up for 30 days. The award is \$12,000 which may all go to one person, or may be split for up to four solutions. A summary of the challenge is shown below.

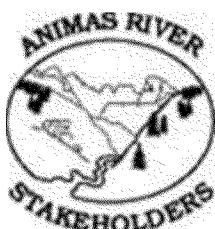
Also, we are planning on a general Animas River Stakeholders Group meeting in Silverton on the afternoon of Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. We will send out a agenda shortly. (The InnoCentive Challenge will not be on the agenda.)

Peter Butler

970-259-0986

**Summary:**

Mine drainages often contain high concentrations of metals and acid. Neutralization and subsequent precipitation and sludge removal is the most common treatment method utilized to meet acceptable Clean Water Act Standards. Variations of this treatment method are expensive to operate, utilize a lot of space, and often generate a large waste stream with high disposal costs. The mines of interest are at high altitudes with harsh conditions which complicate the problem. Our ideal solution will remove the metals, neutralize the acid and remove any waste at considerably lower cost than today's acceptable methods.



#### **About the Seeker:**

The mission of the Animas River Stakeholders Group (ARSG) is to improve water quality and habitats in the Animas River through a collaborative process designed to encourage participation from all interested parties. Participants include mining companies, environmental organizations, land owners, local governmental entities, and state and federal regulatory and land management agencies. This innovative process holds open meetings allowing all parties to participate at a level suited to their interest and need.

This area has many abandoned draining mines, usually acid mine drainage, from sulfide ore deposits. Most mine sites are above 3030 meters (10,000 feet) elevation in mountains with severe weather conditions. However, if the solution is designed to work under these conditions, it should be applicable to thousands of other draining mines in less severe conditions. Abandoned mine drainage treatment is a worldwide problem. In the US there are tens of thousands of draining abandoned mines. Since these sites generally have no viable responsible party and no existing profitable operation in which to offset costs, it is very desirable to find more cost effective methods of treatment. Ultimately this will lead to improved water quality conditions in receiving water bodies as well as cost savings for the public who generally pays for abandoned mine treatment.

**This is an Ideation Challenge, which has the following unique features:**

- **There is a guaranteed award.** The awards will be paid to the best submission(s) **as solely determined by the Seeker.** The total payout will be \$12,000, with at least one award being no smaller than \$5,000 and no award being smaller than \$2,000.
- The Solvers are not required to transfer exclusive intellectual property rights to the Seeker. **Rather, by submitting a proposal, the Solvers grants to the Seeker a royalty-free, perpetual, and non-exclusive license to use any information included in this proposal.**

After the Challenge deadline, the Seeker will complete the review process and make a decision with regards to the Winning Solution(s). All Solvers that submitted a proposal will be notified on the status of their submissions; however, **no detailed evaluation of individual submissions will be provided.**